



Preface

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Preface

The conference “Materials, Systems and Structures in Civil Engineering – MSSCE 2016” is part of the RILEM week 2016, which consists of a series of parallel and consecutive conference and doctoral course segments on different topics as well as technical and administrative meetings in several scientific organizations. The event is hosted by the Department of Civil Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark and the Danish Technological Institute and it is held at the Lyngby campus of the Technical University of Denmark 15-29 August 2016.

This volume contains the proceedings of the MSSCE 2016 conference segment on “Service Life of Cement-Based Materials and Structures”, which is organized by COST Action TU1404 (www.tu1404.eu). This COST Action is entitled: “Towards the next generation of standards for service life of cement-based materials and structures”, dedicated to assist deepening knowledge regarding the service life behaviour of cement-based materials and structures. The main purpose of this Action is to bring together relevant stakeholders (experimental and numerical researchers, standardization offices, manufacturers, designers, contractors, owners and authorities) in order to reflect today's state of knowledge in new guidelines/recommendations, introduce new products and technologies to the market, and promote international and inter-speciality exchange of new information, creating avenues for new developments. The COST Action is basically divided in three main workgroups targeted to this purpose:

WG1 – Testing of cement-based materials and RRT+
WG 2 – Modelling and benchmarking
WG 3 – Recommendations and products

The activities of TU1404 started in November 2014 with a kick-off meeting in Brussels. Since then, three major meetings have taken place, as to promote networking and scientific discussions among participants: April 2015 in Ljubljana, Slovenia; September 2015 in Vienna, Austria; March 2016 in Zagreb, Croatia.

Also, two important instruments of the Action are now under way: the Extended Round Robin Testing Program (RRT⁺), and the numerical benchmarking. The RRT⁺ is currently involving 43 laboratories and has involved shipment of more than 100 tons of raw materials. An initial phase of testing has been finished already, and laboratories are shifting focus to the main experiments of this extended program. The numerical benchmarking program has also begun and will soon interact with the RRT⁺ program and even extend beyond it.

The present conference segment deals with a wide breadth of topics related to the service life of concrete, comprising aspects related to the 3 Workgroups mentioned above. The conference segment is attended by 80 presenters from university, industry and practice representing more than 30 different countries. All contributions have been peer reviewed.

It should be mentioned, that these proceedings do not contain all the papers that have been submitted in the scope of COST TU1404 in MSSCE2016. Due to scheduling and organization issues, as well as affinity with topics of other segments, some of the papers were moved. A separate set of electronic proceedings shall be prepared to include all papers related to COST TU1404, and will be made available in the website of the Action (www.tu1404.eu).

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COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a pan-European intergovernmental framework. Its mission is to enable break-through scientific and technological developments leading to new concepts and products and thereby contribute to strengthening Europe’s research and innovation capacities. It allows researchers, engineers and scholars to jointly develop their own ideas and take new initiatives across all fields of science and technology, while promoting multi- and interdisciplinary approaches. COST aims at fostering a better integration of less research intensive countries to the knowledge hubs of the European Research Area. The COST Association, an International not-for-profit Association under Belgian Law, integrates all management, governing and administrative functions necessary for the operation of the framework. The COST Association has currently 36 Member Countries.



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